provision of Rs. 150.00 crores has been made for setting up of PRDSF under the overall budget of Department of Science and Technology.

Special courts for environment related cases in Maharashtra

†2113. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued orders to open special courts in Maharashtra for speedy disposal of environment related cases;

(b) if so, the fresh steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) by when such special courts are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not issued any instruction to open Special Courts in Maharashtra for quick disposal of environmental cases.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inclusion of Ganga and Gangotri pilgrimage in Ganga Action Plan

†2114. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the place of origin of Ganga-Gangotri pilgrimage is also included in the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, whether he is aware of the fact that thousands of pilgrims and Kanwarias going to Gangotri dump thousands of tones of grabage there every year;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has made any plan on the line of public movement going on in Uttarkashi to clean the Gangotri and to protect the glacier; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) No Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) Every year a large number of pilgrims, kanwarias and Mountaineers visit Gangotri and near by areas. From time to time the local administration and NGO's conduct cleanliness drives to collect the garbage left behind by them. A 50 kg/hr capacity incinerator was installed at Gangotri in June, 1996. The garbage collected is incinerated in the incinerator.

Government of India has also supported the Gangotri Conservation project run by Himalayan Environment Trust. Financial assistance of Rs. 15 lakhs and Rs. 6.3 lakh was provided to the trust in the year 1994 and 1997 respectively for various works at Gangotri.

National River Conservation Plan

2115. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the criteria of selection of rivers under the National River Conservation Plan;

(b) what were the steps taken by Government for cleaning of rivers under this plan so far;

(c) whether Government propose to include some more rivers and towns under this plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the improvement made so far in the water quality of the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Action Plans for different river under National River Conservation Plan have been drawn up on the basis of surveys conducted by Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards.

(b) The following pollution abatement works have been undertaken by various implementing agencies of the State Government for cleaning of rivers.

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains.